



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

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Secretary of State Kevin Shelley Partners with Assemblywoman Hancock, Senator Torlakson, to Encourage Student Poll Workers

AB 1944 would ensure funding for schools who allow students to serve on Election Day

SACRAMENTO, CA—Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today expressed his support for AB 1944 (Hancock), a bill that would allow high school students to serve as poll workers without schools losing their Average Daily Attendance (ADA) funding.

“I am strongly supporting AB 1944 because of the continuous need for capable and motivated poll workers,” said Secretary of State Kevin Shelley. “Our state’s increasingly complex election-day procedures make it difficult to recruit, train and retain poll workers. This bill removes a major hurdle to the recruitment of young and energetic student poll workers.”

“The active participation of student poll workers will increase their appreciation of the political process,” said Secretary of State Kevin Shelley. “I am confident that this effort can serve as a national model for other states. There is a valuable lesson these students gain as poll workers; the only votes that do not matter are the ones that are not cast.”

Speaking on behalf of Secretary Shelley at a joint press conference with Assemblywoman Hancock and Senator Torlakson, Willie Guerrero, an Assistant Secretary of State, expressed that Secretary Shelley has a history of supporting student poll workers. Secretary Shelley was a driving force behind last year’s SB 610 (Escutia), which allowed more students to serve as poll workers at a precinct, bringing the total number from 2 to 5. Pursuant to the chaptering of SB 610, the Secretary of State is creating a task force to address the issue of uniform poll worker training standards and the needs of the minority-language and disabled communities. The task force will be comprised of elections officials, minority-language representatives and advocates, as well as individuals from the disabled community.

The idea for AB 1944 was conceived by a group of students studying government at Acalanes High School, in Lafayette. The students and their teacher, Larry Freeman, approached Assemblywoman Hancock and Senator Torlakson about amending the Education code. The amendment would allow schools to continue to receive ADA funding when their students serve as poll workers on Election Day. AB 1944 was approved by the Assembly Education Committee, and is being sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.